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6:30 /p.m. News

Announcer -- The Los Angeles Grand Jury looking into the break-in of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist heard testimony today from the man who was originally accused of committing the break-in, but was in jail the night of the event. Dennis Levitt reports:

Levitt: The Los Angeles Grand Jury ,investigating the break-in at Deniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist's office, today heard from policemen who investigating that break-in, as well as from Elmer Davis, who was convicted of the break-in. Davis was originally arrested in Beverly Hills for another crime, and the Beverly Hills Police Department allegedly pinned the Ellsberg burglary on him. Davis claims that the police tried to pressure him into confessing for the burglary, this in exchange for a reduced sentence on the other crime he was charged with.. When he refused to confess to something he didn't do, Davis claims that the police lied on the witness stand in order to convict him. At his trial, three eyewitnesses to the burglary were not called to testify. It seems that their descriptions of the burglar did not match Davis at all. Further, it has recently come out that Davis was in fact incarcerated in the L.A. County Jail on the night of the burglary. Davis spent six months in jail for being convicted of the burglary of Ellsberg's psychiatrist's office. Today Beverley Hills policemen who, needless to say, are in hot water for their actions on Davis and the burglary, testified at the Grand Jury. Associated Press "sources close to the Grand Jury" say the officers reportedly denied any knowledge of the White House and Watergate links to the break-in. They testified that they had no inkling that the burglary had been ordered by people inside the White House when they accused Davis of the crime. Davis himself was another witness today. Although his testimony is still secret, Davis previously has contended that there were ulterior motives for linking him to the burglary. This is Dennis Levitt, Pacifica Radio, Los Angeles.

We Wasn't Informed Department. The STM dissolvedinto hysterics over the bland statement that the officers "testified that they had no inkling that the burglary had been ordered by people inside the White House when they accused Davis of the crime." She amused herself the rest of the evening, imagining what they would have done if they HAD had such an inkling Actually, we have no doubt that they had considerably more than an inkling and were leaned upon in no uncertain terms to find a scapegoat fast and close the books on the case. We live in hope it will turn out that John Wayne or Frank Sinatra did the leaning.

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A million-dollar lawsuit was filed against members of the Administration today for conspiracy in connection with the Ellsberg affair. Here's a report from Mark Shwartz:

Elmer Davis, charged with the break-in of the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist, has filed a $1-million civil complaint against President Nixon, John Ehrlichman and six others for conspiracy and libel. Davis, a 45-year-old black law researcher, was arrested on October 7th, 1971, for the burglary of a Beverly Hills dress shop. Davis says he was being interviewed for a job at the University of Southern California at the time the dress shop was burglarized. The Beverly Hills police offered him a deal to confess to some 13 burglaries, including the September 3rd break-in at the office of psychiatrist Lewis Fielding. But last May convicted Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt told a Washington grand jury that the burglary of Dr. Fielding's office was authorized by Egil Krogh, an aide to President Nixon. According to Senate testimony this week by John Dean, Krogh said that President Nixon himself ordered the break-in.

In his civil complaint filed in Los Angeles Federal Court, Elmer Davis now charges Nixon and his agents Krogh, Hunt and G. Gordon Liddy with conspiring to commit the break-in under the guise of "domestic security." Davis also charges Hunt and Liddy with providing three male Cubans with equipment supplied by the CIA, used in the burglary. And Davis charges that Nixon, Ehrlichman, Krogh and Beverly Hills police chief B.L. Cork [phonetic] conspired to make him a "scapegoat" in order to cover up their own criminal acts and to falsely convict him.

Davis, acting as his own attorney while in Folsom prison, says he was in the Beverly Hills jail at the time of the break-in of Dr. Fielding's office, serving a sentence for petty theft.

The Beverly Hills police chief told the L.A. Times last May that Davis admitted to the break-in and said he was looking for narcotics. However, Chief Cork refused to open Davis's file, saying he had turned it over to the FBI. Davis charges the Beverly Hills police with "exposing his criminal record to public ridicule."

All in all, Davis is asking Nixon and the other seven for 1-million dollars in damages. His complaint also authorizes all state and federal courts in the United States to punish those he has named, including President Nixon, if the courts see fit.

This is Mark Shwartz, for KPFA.